



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
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DEC 11 2012



Mr. Abraham Franklin
Watershed Protection Section
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environmental Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87502

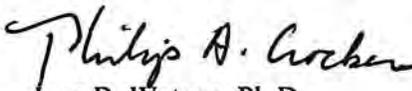
Dear Mr. Franklin:

We have completed our review of the second draft of the Watershed Based Plan for the Upper Pecos River, a watershed-based plan (WBP) addressing the Environmental Protection Agency's nine key elements for Section 319 funding. This version of the plan, dated November 19, 2012, addresses EPA's comments on the initial WBP received in June of 2012. This WBP is designed to address existing water quality impairments for temperature, sedimentation, specific conductance, and nutrients in the Upper Pecos River.

EPA appreciates the work of the Upper Pecos Watershed Association and the New Mexico Environmental Department to prepare this WBP, as well as the thorough and timely manner in which our original comments were addressed.. This plan will provide sufficient information to implement the TMDL for the Pecos Headwaters Watershed and will effectively address other sources of nonpoint source pollution in the watershed. We are pleased to inform you that we consider this plan to be in compliance with EPA national guidance. We anticipate that this document will be refined as data collection continues and milestone reviews determine implementation progress and effectiveness.

Based on our acceptance of the WBP, the State of New Mexico is now eligible for CWA Section 319 funding for watershed implementation projects consistent with this WBP and the Surface Water Quality Bureau's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. If you or your staff have any questions regarding our review, please contact me at 214-665-6653, or you can contact Brian Fontenot of my staff at 214-665-7286.

Sincerely,

for 
Jane B. Watson, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Ecosystems Protection Branch

cc: James Hogan, NMED ✓